

What is claimed:

1. A method of exchanging a digital credential between a first computer node and a second computer node, the method comprising establishing a secure connection between the first node and second node over a communication network; initiating, in response to the interaction of a user of a computer node on the network, the transfer of a digital credential from the first node to the second node over the secure connection.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising establishing a plurality of secure connections between the first node and a plurality of respective computer nodes and initiating, in response to the interaction of a user of a computer node on the network, the transfer of a digital credential from the first node to one or more of the respective computer nodes over the respective secure connections.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the digital credential is an attribute credential of an entity.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the entity is a user or a system or a service.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the digital credential determines access to a service.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the digital credential is an identity certificate of a user.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the communication network is the internet.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the secure connection is a secure sockets layer session.
- 5 9. A method according to claim 1, further comprising presenting to a user the digital credential associated with the secure connection.
- 10 10. A computer system comprising a first computer node coupled to a second computer node via a communication network, the first node and second node being arranged to allow a secure connection to be established between the first and second nodes, the first node having a processor responsive to the interaction of a user for initiating the transfer of a digital credential over the secure connection established between the first node and second node.
- 15 11. A computer system comprising a plurality of computer nodes coupled via a communication network, wherein a first node is arranged to allow a plurality of secure connections to be established between the first node and a plurality of other nodes coupled to the network, the first node being arranged to be responsive to the interaction of a user to initiate the transfer of a digital credential over the plurality of secure connections established between the first node and the respective other nodes.
- 20 12. A computer system according to claim 11 or 12, further comprising a verifier for verifying the digital certificate.
- 25 13. A computer system according to any of claims 11 to 12, wherein the first node includes memory for storing the digital credential associated with the secure connection and a display for presenting to a user the digital credential.
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- 5 14. A computer system according to claim 14, wherein a node further comprises a controller for arranging digital credentials into groups, the groups being associated with a respective secure connection to allow a user to monitor digital credentials associated with a secure connection.
- 10 15. A computer node for coupling to a second computer node via a communication network, the computer node being arranged to allow a secure connection to be established with the second computer node, the computer node comprising a processor responsive to the interaction of a user for initiating the transfer of a digital credential over a secure connection established between the first node and second node.
- 15 16. A computer node according to claim 15, wherein the processor is arranged to receive a digital credential received over the secure connection.
- 20 17. A computer node according to claim 15, further comprising a verifier for verifying a digital credential.
- 25 18. A computer node according to any of claims 15, further comprising memory for storing the digital credential associated with the secure connection and a display for presenting to a user the digital credential.
- 30 19. A computer node according to claim 18, further comprising a controller for arranging digital credentials into groups, the groups being associated with a respective secure connection to allow a user to monitor digital credentials associated with a secure connection.